



# **SUPERFUND KICK-OFF FACT SHEET**

## **BLUE RIDGE PLATING SITE Arden, Buncombe County, North Carolina**

**March 2003**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This fact sheet on the Blue Ridge Plating Site located in Arden, Buncombe County, North Carolina, has been prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV office. The purpose of the fact sheet is to inform interested citizens and local officials about the Site and provide advanced notice of upcoming activities. This fact sheet provides the following information: a brief description and history of the site; a brief introduction to the Superfund process; a brief description of the sampling plan for the upcoming Remedial Investigation; and a brief description of the Baseline Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study. The fact sheet outlines opportunities for public involvement, and contains EPA contacts as well as other sources of information available to the public.

### **KICK-OFF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**Time: Beginning at 7:00 PM**

**Where: Skyland Fire Station  
9 Miller Road  
Skyland, NC**

**[Location: At intersection of Hwy. 25 and  
Long Shoals Road]**

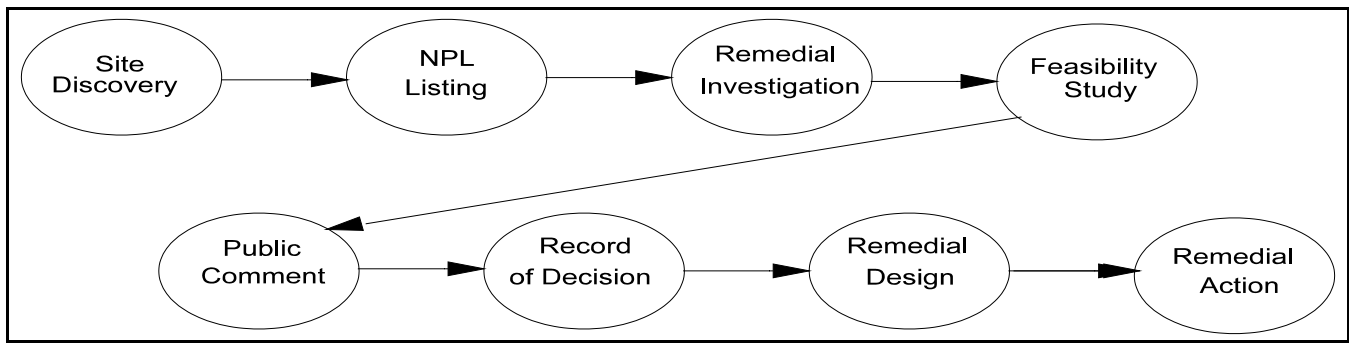
**Questions? Contact EPA @  
1-800-435-9233  
Diane Barrett or Jon Bornholm**

The Blue Ridge Plating Site is located at 171 Glenn Bridge Road in Arden, North Carolina. There are conflicting reports of when Blue Ridge Plating Company began operating - the dates range from 1963 to 1973. Blue Ridge Plating conducts electroplating and metal finishing processes that include the use of zinc, cadmium, chromium, tin, copper, cyanide and black oxide.

During the period of 1973 to 1985, electroplating wastes were reportedly collected in drums located in the basement of the building where plating sludges were filtered out and the waste water was directed to a 75,000 gallon open top, concrete lagoon adjacent to the building. The drummed plating sludges were then shipped off-site for disposal. The resulting waste water was reportedly either sprayed onto the ground surface on the property or reused as process water. From 1985 to approximately 1990, Blue Ridge Plating discharged the waste rinse water to the municipal sewer system until their access was denied due to numerous exceedances of their pretreatment requirements. The facility currently uses a "closed loop" reclamation system to process plating rinse wastes by filtering out the sludge, neutralizing pH, and evaporating the

### **BRIEF SITE DESCRIPTION/HISTORY**





water. This operation was conducted within the basement of the facility.

Land use within the vicinity of the Site is primarily light industrial and residential. The nearest residence is approximately 500 feet west of the Site. People in the area obtain drinking water from the Buncombe County Water Authority. There are no schools or day care centers within ½ mile of the Site.

Based upon data collected during investigations, the surface water pathway appears to be of greatest concern. Previous investigations have documented an observed release to the environment, specifically in the unnamed tributary adjacent to the Site. The Agency also has concern for the potential of a release of contaminants to fisheries, Lake Julian, and the French Broad River.

Since 1980, the Blue Ridge Plating facility has been the focus of numerous actions/ investigations by the State of North Carolina and/or EPA.

## WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

EPA has hired an environmental contracting firm to conduct the Remedial Investigation. We expect the physical investigation to begin in May. Approximately 50 soil, stream sediment, surface water and groundwater samples will be taken to determine the extent of contamination, which contaminants are present and in what quantities. A **Remedial Investigation (RI)** report will be prepared based upon the data gathered from the sampling activities conducted. Based on the

analytical results of the Remedial Investigation, EPA will develop a **Baseline Risk Assessment** that will assess the potential risks posed by the Site to human health and the environment. A **Feasibility Study (FS)** will then be developed to evaluate the various alternatives or options for treating/cleaning up the contaminants at the Site. As the various milestones are reached during the RI/FS process, EPA will update the public about the status of the Site through fact sheets. At the completion of the Feasibility Study, EPA will hold a public meeting and present possible clean up options, and identify the one EPA believes is most appropriate for the Site. The public then has 30 days to comment on the proposed remedy (this 30 days can be extended to 60 days). Once the public comment period has ended and EPA has taken all comments into consideration, EPA will write the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision is the decision document which explains in detail the remedial alternative selected for the Site. A notice will be placed in the local newspaper(s) announcing the selected remedy.

The chart above indicates the major steps of the Superfund program. Presently, we are between the **NPL Listing** and **Remedial Investigation**. The Blue Ridge Plating Site has been proposed for placement on the NPL (National Priorities List), but has yet to be finalized.

Public involvement is a major component of the Superfund program and is invited throughout the process. We encourage citizens to speak up at any time, and have provided a toll free number for that purpose: **1-800-435-9233**.



Since the Superfund process is long, there will be periods of time when you will not see anything physically happening at the Site, and contact from EPA will be sporadic. That is when the "behind the scene" activities will be occurring, i.e.;

- preparation of work plans outlining how various activities will be conducted/handled;
- analyzing the soil, groundwater, surface water, and stream sediment samples taken during the **Remedial Investigation**, and developing a report based on these findings;
- a **Baseline Risk Assessment** will be conducted to determine what risks are present at the Site that could adversely impact human health or the environment, and what the cleanup levels will be;
- the **Feasibility Study** is an examination of the various treatment alternatives available to treat or clean up Site contaminants, and documents this information;
- a summary of the data from the preceding activities will be presented to the public as a **Proposed Plan** and will request public comments;
- development of the **Record of Decision** specifying which treatment alternative was selected and why;
- the **Remedial Design** is a blueprint of the alternative selected, what efforts will be necessary to construct the technology, how the cleanup alternative will be constructed, what the cleanup alternative is suppose to accomplish, the need to take additional samples to further determine the extent of contamination, health/safety/emergency plans relative to implementing the technology and protecting the surrounding community/environment, determining how truck traffic

and heavy machinery can best be handled with the least amount of trouble to the community (if necessary), plus numerous tasks;

- soliciting bids from engineering firms to implement the remedial design;
- physical implementation of the treatment design is the final step, the **Remedial Action**.

The above outline only touches on the high points of each step, with each step having numerous sub-tasks that must be accomplished. During the entire process we urge citizens to be involved and to contact us whenever they have questions or concerns.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS (A two-way process)**

The overall objectives of community relations is to: inform the public of planned or ongoing actions; establish two-way communication between the public and EPA; provide the public the opportunity to express comments on and provide input to technical decisions; and identify and resolve conflict. EPA will conduct public meetings, mail fact sheets to individuals on the Site's mailing list, place notices in local newspapers, and maintain telephone contact with local officials and interested citizens.

The following are some of the community relations activities that are to be conducted:

- conduct community interviews
- establish a Site mailing list
- prepare a Community Relations Plan
- establish an information repository
- Technical Assistance Grant notification & Community Advisory Group formation
- conduct "kick-off" public meeting
- prepare fact sheet for meeting
- RI/FS notification and analysis



- prepare a Proposed Plan fact sheet and distribute
- conduct 30-day+ public comment period
- conduct a Proposed Plan public meeting
- prepare a Responsiveness Summary
- notification of pre-Record of Decision changes, if any
- notification to public of remedy selected in the Record of Decision
- prepare Record of Decision fact sheet
- post-Record of Decision changes, if any
- revise Community Relations Plan as necessary
- prepare a Remedial Design fact sheet
- conduct a public meeting on the final engineering design.

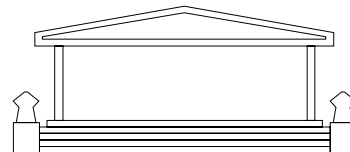
There are several ways the public can become more involved in the process. One of these methods is the **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)** which is available for Superfund Sites that have been proposed for placement or that have been placed on the **National Priorities List (NPL)**. Congress established the TAG Program in 1986 to help affected communities understand and comment on site-related information, and thus participate in cleanup decision. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to one community group per site for hiring technical advisor(s) to help the community understand site-related technical information. Groups eligible to receive a TAG grant are those whose members may be affected by a release or threatened release of toxic wastes at any facility listed or proposed for listing on the NPL, and where preliminary site work has begun. In general, eligible groups are groups of individuals who live near the site and whose health, economic well-being, or enjoyment of the environment are directly threatened. A group applying for a TAG must be nonprofit and be incorporated or working toward incorporation. There are specific requirements for obtaining and maintaining a TAG. Since this Site has been proposed for listing on the NPL, an interested citizen's group impacted by the Site is eligible to receive a TAG grant. If you want more

information, please contact Diane Barrett at the EPA 1-800-435-9233.

EPA also supports the formation of the "Community Advisory Group" at a site to serve as a public forum to represent the diverse community interests, needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. This process consists of forming a committee representing citizens (between 15-20 members) in the community that are willing to meet on a regular basis (once a month) to discuss on-going Superfund activities at the Site. This group is not funded by EPA and participation would be strictly on a voluntary basis of time, money and efforts by each person. It is suggested that rotating terms of membership be set with each member serving two years. This system would help retain on-going knowledge of site activities and maintain continuity. Representatives from EPA would also attend meetings on a regular basis. EPA has developed criteria for the formation of a Community Working Group. If you are interested, please contact Diane Barrett.

The purpose of either programs is to get citizens interested/impacted by the Site to be involved with the process, and disseminate information to area residents.

## INFORMATION REPOSITORY



Copies of documents developed during the Superfund process will be placed in the **information repository**. To start with, any documents developed will be placed in the Skyland Fire Station, and after renovation has been completed, documents moved to the:



Buncombe/Skyland Library  
260 Overlook Road  
Asheville, North Carolina 28803  
Phone: (828) 684-1827

The repository will be set up in two files; one file is

called the **Administrative Record** which will contain all of the documents used to make the decision of the remedy to be used to treat contamination at the Site. The other file will contain "general" information, i.e. the Community Relations Plan, fact sheets, and literature.

---

## EPA CONTACTS

If you want more information about Site activities, please feel free to contact either of the following:

**Jon Bornholm, Project Manager**  
**Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator**  
**U.S. E. P. A., Region 4**  
**North Superfund Remedial Branch**  
**61 Forsyth Street, SW**  
**Atlanta, GA 30303-8960**  
**Phone: 1-800-435-9233 ext. 28820 or 28489**

---

## MAILING LIST

This initial mailing list was purchased and sent to the zip code where you live. If you want your name deleted from the mailing list, have a change of address or know of someone that would like to have their name added to the **Blue Ridge Plating Site** mailing list, please complete the following information circling the action you want taken, and return to Diane Barrett at the EPA. Thank you.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **DELETION OF NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDITION**

Return to: Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S.E.P.A., Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960





**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency North Site Management Branch**  
**61 Forsyth Street, SW, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960**

**Diane Barrett, Community Involvement Coordinator**  
**Jon Bornholm, Remedial Project Manager**

---

**Official Business**  
**Penalty for Private Use \$300**